

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 13, line 15 and ending at page 14, line 7 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

a²

The host cells include microorganisms belonging to the genus Escherichia, Serratia, Bacillus, Brevibacterium, Corynebacterium, Microbacterium or Pseudomonas, including, for example, Escherichia coli XL1-Blue, Escherichia coli XL2-Blue, Escherichia coli DH1, Escherichia coli MC1000, Escherichia coli KY3276, Escherichia coli W1485, Escherichia coli JM109, Escherichia coli HB101, Escherichia coli No. 49, Escherichia coli W3110, Escherichia coli NY49, Escherichia coli GI698, Escherichia coli TB1, Serratia ficaria, Serratia fonticola, Serratia liquefaciens, Serratia marcescens, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Brevibacterium ammoniagenes, Brevibacterium immariophilum ATCC 14068, Brevibacterium saccharolyticum ATCC 14066, Brevibacterium flavum ATCC 14067, Brevibacterium lactofermentum ATCC 13869, Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC 13032, Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC 13869, Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum ATCC 13870, Microbacterium ammoniaphilum ATCC 15354, Pseudomonas putida and Pseudomonas sp. D-0110.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 16 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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3. (Amended) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 60 % homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, and having transaldolase activity.